the Scheme financial assistance is provided @25% of the project cost in general areas and @ 33.33% in difficult areas subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakh and Rs. 75 lakh respectively. Recently, in order to give boost to growth of FPI sector the Government has allowed under Income Tax Act, a deduction of 100% of profit for five years and 25% of profit for the next five years in case of new agro processing industries set up to process, preserve and package fruits and vegetables.

Modernising FPIs

†1342. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take steps for modernization of Food Processing Industries in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of incentives proposed to be given to different States or non-Governmental entrepreneurs for the said purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Government has already formulated and implemented a scheme for technology upgradation/establishment/modernization of FPI units in the country. Under the scheme financial assistance @25% of the project cost in general areas and @ 33.33% in difficult areas is provided subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakh and Rs. 75 lakh respectively. The scheme is project specific not State/area specific. Accordingly assistance is provided to the firms/organizations implementing the projects.

Developing FPIs

1343. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to improper facilities and policy implementation country loses agricultural foodstuffs worth more than Rs.50,000 crores annually;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.